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FIELD TRIP REPORT OF PUBLICATIONS OFFICER, CAIRO

October 18-November 9, 1960

I. GREECE - Athens

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Mr. L. G. Greenup, Deputy Director, USIS, Athens;
- 2) Miss Marion Mitchell, Embassy Political Officer and newly appointed part-time PO;
- 3) Mr. Benno H. Selcke, Embassy Cultural Attache.

B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Eleftheroudakis - Located corner Syntagma Square and Stadion Street. Well-stocked with Greek, English and French language publications; believed a good source for type of publications usually sought by LC.
- 2) Collaros - Located 38 Stadion Street. Another well-stocked bookstore, also a publisher.
- 3) Atlantis - Located 8 Korai Street. Large and containing a good general selection of publications, also publishes.
- 4) Ikaros - Located 4 Stadion Street (Tameior Bldg).
- 5) Kaufmann - Located 28 Stadion Street.

C. Comments

Mr. Jay Blowers has been replaced as ad hoc PO by Miss Marion Mitchell, Embassy Political Officer. Miss Mitchell stated that current diplomatic lists and telephone directories have been forwarded to the Department. A list of local bookstores and publishers is being collected by the PO and will be forwarded to the Department when completed. The publications procurement program, including graphic responsibilities, and its day-to-day operational aspects were fully explained to Miss Mitchell by the RPO.

While touring local bookstores, copies of a bi-lingual (English-Greek) "Who's Who in Greece" were noted by the RPO, but the PO stated that copies had previously been purchased for the Department. No local press survey report has been made recently by the Embassy. The last one was prepared in mid-1959. When the RPO suggested that a new report might be useful, he was told that no recent requirement from Washington had been received by the post for this particular type of publication.

II. SPAIN

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II. SPAIN - Madrid (Mr. Lewis included Madrid in his itinerary to check possible local sources of publications concerning the former territory of Spanish Morocco)

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Mr. Thomas A. Thoreson, newly appointed ad-hoc PO and third Secretary of the Embassy.

B. Bookstores Visited

No bookstores were visited.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

- 1) Miss Josephina Macia, Embassy General Services clerk.

D. Comments

Mr. Thomas A. Thoreson was recently appointed ad hoc PO to replace Mr. J. H. Cameron Peake. As the RPO, Cairo, arrived in Madrid just after Mr. Thoreson's appointment, the whole publications procurement program was explained to the new PO. Mr. Thoreson impressed RPO, Cairo, as taking an aggressive interest in the success of the publications program at Madrid. Mr. Lewis ventures to predict that Mr. Thoreson will be more successful than his immediate predecessors as ad hoc PO, Madrid. Prior to Mr. Thoreson's arrival, the GS Officer, Mr. Ramon Gibson, and, in particular, his clerk, Miss Josephina Macia were handling publications procurement. Miss Macia impressed RPO, Cairo as being very knowledgeable of the whole publications procurement program. Mr. Lewis checked into various book lists of Moroccan and mid-eastern material in Spanish available at the Embassy and was promised that copies of the lists would be mailed to him at Cairo.

III. MOROCCO - Casablanca

A. Official Contacts

- 1) William E. Berry Jr., ad hoc PO and Consul;
- 2) Norman K. Pratt, Consul.

B. Bookstores Visited

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B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Librairie Farairre - Large selection, some English language but mostly French language publications stocked.
- 2) Librairie de France - Stocked the same as Librairie Farairre.
- 3) Librairie de France et du Maroc - Medium size, mostly French language publications in stock.
- 4) Dar al-Kitab - Largest Arabic bookstore in Medina quarter stocks everything published in Arabic in Morocco as well as many Egyptian and Lebanese publications.
- 5) Miscellaneous small bookstores and newsstands.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

- 1) Owner of Dar al-Kitab--Madame Farairre.

D. Comments

A definite switch to Arabization is apparent in local publications. Very few French language publications on Morocco are to be seen in Casablanca. All primary and secondary school textbooks are published in Arabic. Casablanca seems to be the center of non-governmental Arabic publications.

William E. Berry, Jr., is the newly assigned ad hoc PO for Casablanca. He appears to be a go-getter and was extremely co-operative. Mr. Norman K. Pratt, Consulate General, welcomed the opportunity to accompany RPO, Cairo, to the old Medina (native) section of the city where the two browsed in the Arabic bookshops found there. One interesting book picked up is titled "Moroccan Muslims are Against Atheism." This may prove useful to certain people, as it contains a chapter entitled "America Advises Turkey to Return to Religion."

IV. MOROCCO - Rabat

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Mr. David Ness, DCM;
- 2) Mr. Robert Chase, ad hoc PO.

B. Bookstores Visited

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B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Le Livre - Large, well-stocked, mostly French language publications, little Arabic; Communist.
- 2) Les Belles Images - Largest and most up-to-date bookstore in Rabat, mostly French language publications with some Arabic and English.
- 3) Librairie Modern - Medium size, well-stocked, mostly French language publications.
- 4) Cife - Small, well-stocked, also mostly French publications.
- 5) Toumi - Small, French and Arabic language stock.
- 6) GOM Ministry of Information and Tourism Display Bookstore - Most publications in Arabic, a few in French; all government handouts.

C. Comments

RPO, Cairo, was able to purchase a considerable amount of Arabic and French language publications published in Peking and, of course, all glorifying Communist China. No other country among those visited so far, can boast of so much Chicom literature. This was all found in Rabat. The Chicoms have gone "all out" with their publications in this city. When the DCM was informed of the profuse presence of Chicom publications locally, he requested Mr. Robert Chase, ad hoc PO, to prepare a report on the subject. He also requested that RPO, Cairo, stress the local availability of Chicom material in his report to the Department. The Chicom publications obtained locally by RPO, Cairo, will be packed and forwarded separately to the Department.

Mr. Chase, ad hoc PO, is seeking a variety of governmental publications through official channels and will forward them to the Department upon their receipt. It should be noted that Rabat is the principal source for the acquisition of official Moroccan publications. The ad hoc PO spent a considerable amount of time accompanying RPO, Cairo, to the various local bookstores.

V. MOROCCO - Tangier

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Mr. Mayer, Consul-General;
- 2) Mr. Leonardo Neher, ad hoc PO.

B. Bookstores Visited

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B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Dar Ibin Battutah - Medium-size bookstore with a good selection of Egyptian, Lebanese, Syrian and Moroccan publications.
- 2) The plant of "Editions Marocaines et Internationales," Route Rabat Km 2, Tangier.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

- 1) Mukhtar al-Wasini - Owner of Ibin Battutah bookstore and, until recently, governor of Tangier.
- 2) M. Robert Delaunay - Director of "Editiones Marocaines et Internationales," who proved to be affable and cooperative.

D. Comments

RPO, Cairo, secured copies of newspapers and periodicals published by "Editiones Marocaines et Internationales" for several newly-independent sub-Saharan African countries. These publications are edited and printed in Tangier, but subscriptions for them would have to be directed to the specific country involved. These sample titles were airmailed to the Department today. Should the Department decide to subscribe to any of them, please inform the post that M. Delaunay is a friend of the RPO, Cairo, and that is how the existence of the publication was brought to the Department's attention. M. Delaunay requested that this be done since these publications are not for sale here. "Editiones Marocaines et Internationales" has an up-to-date plant where "Le Depache de Maroc" was formerly printed.

Mukhtar al-Wasini stated that he would be more than happy to handle any requests received by mail. He seems like a good contact for LC.

All other bookstores in Tangier feature nothing but French language material published in Paris.

Sub-Saharan titles sent today and mentioned above are as follows: "La Presse du Cameroun," "Le Journal," "Samba," "Revue Encyclopedique de l'Afrique," "Bingo," "Bafila," "Le Dahomey," "Independence du Mali," and "L'Unite Africaine,"

VI. MOROCCO

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VI. MOROCCO - Tetuan

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Mr. Ahmad 'Ashur, Delegate of the Ministry of Education, GOM (Government of Morocco).

B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Institute Mulay Hassan de Investigation; Paseo Visir R'caina, Tetuan.
- 2) Two small bookstores and a few newsstands none of which had much to offer.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

- 1) M. Sauvage - Institut Scientifique Cherifien, Service des Publications, Avenue Biarnay, Rabat.
- 2) M. Veaux, - Doyen, Faculte de Droit, Avenue de Strasbourg, Agda 1, Rabat.
- 3) Mr. El Ghorfi - Service de la Recherche Agronomique, Rabat.
- 4) M. Morin, Service des Publications, Direction des Mines et de la Geologie, GOM, Rabat.

D. Comments

Mr. Lewis arrived in Tetuan at 1030 hours, October 27. He found Mr. 'Ashur waiting for him in his office (an appointment had been previously made). Mr. 'Ashur was gracious, affable and cooperative, but stated that since his position was an administrative one, he could not give RPO, Cairo, the lists which he had prepared unless this was done "officially." He reiterated the fact that not only the lists but a copy of everything issued by the institute (Mulay Hassan de Investigation) could be supplied if properly authorized by the Director, Ministry of Education. The name of the Director was given as Ahmad Bin al-Yamani. RPO, Cairo, thanked Mr. 'Ashur profusely after he had one of his aides show the visitor around the place, and then, somewhat surprisingly, allowed Mr. Lewis to leave with the "proscribed" lists. Mr. Neher (PO, Tangier) promised to write the Ministry of Education for the necessary authorization and, it is hoped, the Department will eventually get copies of the institute's (Mulay Hassan de Investigation) publications. The lists mailed to the Department today are as follows: "Travaux de l'Institut Scientifique Cherifien, "Indice General de la Revista 'Tamuda' (1953-59), "Officiena de Distribucion e Intercambio de Publicaciones."

VII. TUNISIA

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VII. TUNISIA - Tunis

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Muhammad Zghal, Director of Publications, Ministry of Information.
- 2) The U.S. Ambassador, DCM, and Mr. Heywood K. Stackhouse, ad hoc PO.

B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Department of Publications, Ministry of Education.
- 2) Dar al-Ma'arif Bookstore - Large, well-stocked, all Arabic language publications.
- 3) Al-Thamini Bookstore - Large, well-stocked, all French language publications.
- 4) Saliba Bookstores - Very large, well-stocked, but, also, French language publications only.
- 5) Miscellaneous smaller bookstores and newsstands in the city and cashbah.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

- 1) Muhammad Rafiq Saqti - Owner of Dar al-Ma'arif Bookstore, 8 rue Bach-Hamba, Tunis. Mr. Saqti is very knowledgeable of the publication situation both in Tunisia and in other Arab countries.

D. Comments

At present, very little is published commercially in Tunis. According to a very reliable contact, however, this situation will radically change in the near future. With partial government backing, a new publishing house with a capitalization in excess of three hundred million francs has recently been formed. RPO, Cairo, was told that new publishing machinery was already in Tunis, and about to be utilized.

Mr. Lewis' appointment at the Ministry of Information turned out to be very successful. Mr. Zghal, the director of publications within the ministry, whom RPO, Cairo, had met on a previous visit, was extremely gracious and cooperative. Many publications were collected for forwarding to the Department. The Ministry of Information apparently operates the only publishing house in Tunis. (The new commercial publishing venture, mentioned above, will, of course, alter this situation.) Its publications are mostly printed in Arabic, French and English.

Few Soviet or Sovbloc publications were observed. One exception was the standard Soviet propaganda magazine--"USMR."

VIII. LIBYA

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VIII. LIBYA - Tripoli

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Mr. Stephen Duncan-Peters, ad hoc PO.

B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Ash-Sharq Bookstore - Medium size, well-stocked with Arabic, English and French language publications.
- 2) Al-Farjani Bookstore - Large, well-stocked, mostly Arabic language publications.
- 3) As-Sarraaj Bookstore - Very large, well-stocked, also mostly Arabic publications.
- 4) Libreria Reginian - Medium size, well-stocked, Italian and French language publications.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program

- 1) As-Sayd ash-Sharif - Local employee of Embassy; well aware of Libyan publications and willing to cooperate.

D. Comments

There is very little private enterprise publishing at present in Tripoli. Mr. Duncan-Peters, ad hoc PO, states that this situation is due for rapid change as publishing machinery for private use is steadily arriving in Libya. He predicts a flourishing local publishing industry by this time next year.

RPO, Cairo was able to locate a 1960-61 Libyan Commercial Directory which was purchased along with a few other publications. This particular directory is in English-Arabic-Italian. Another English language directory, published in Malta, and previously seen by the RPO, was out of stock. The owner of the Ash-Sharq bookstore, however, stated that a new edition was already in local warehouses and would be placed on retail sale within the next few days. The local PO was, therefore, instructed to buy three copies for forwarding to the Department.

Most of the Arabic language material in bookstores here is either published in Cairo or Beirut. A few Soviet and Bloc publications were noted on bookstands.

IX. LIBYA

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IX. LIBYA - Benghazi

A. Official Contacts

- 1) Ralph W. Stephan, Jr., Third Secretary of Embassy Office and ad hoc PO.

B. Bookstores Visited

- 1) Al-Jarbi Bookstore - Small, poorly-stocked.
- 2) National Bookstore - Same.
- 3) UAR Cultural Center

C. Comments

The four very small and poorly-stocked bookstores which comprise the entire retail publications outlet in Benghazi, were visited. They act more as news-paper distributors than as bookstores-nothing of local vintage was available. In contrast, the UAR's Cultural Center, situated on a busy thoroughfare one block behind the American Embassy, was doing a "land office" business. It features a large reading room; its shelves are well-stocked with Egyptian material, and the Egyptian "Political Series" are neatly stacked on metal racks near the entrance. "Al-Ahram's and other dailies' front pages are posted in the show windows. Some English, Italian and French language publications on the Suez Canal and other Egyptian priority subjects are conspicuously displayed.

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